



BUCKLAND

Franklin County



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NARRATIVE

Narrative

The Town of Buckland is a small rural predominately farming community with a population of less than 2,000 people. It is a member of a regional school district comprised of nine towns. There is some light manufacturing, and its downtown business district, known as Shelburne Falls, is a shared small business district contiguous with the Town of Shelburne. The Route 112 corridor between the Town of Buckland and the Town of Ashfield is a scenic highway consisting of a number of small farms. The Town of Buckland has a small recreational facility and park which it hopes to expand, but can't due to financial constraints specifically relating to extensive school budgets and a very weak tax base. Historically, the Town of Buckland has the Iron Bridge, which is currently being restored by the State, the Glacial Potholes and the world renowned Bridge of Flowers as attractions which draw visitors to the town. Unfortunately, due to the town's rural location in western Massachusetts, its small size and a lack of state signage on major highways, the town differs from other major areas in the state in that it is increasingly difficult to draw tourists and expand the revenue base. Buckland believes that an expansion of light manufacturing, farm support and tourism can all be accomplished and supportive of each other.

(Narrative supplied by community)



GEOGRAPHY

Location

Northwestern Massachusetts, bordered by Charlemont and Colrain on the north, Shelburne on the east, Ashfield and Conway on the south, and Hawley on the west. Buckland is 15 miles west of Greenfield, 42 miles northeast of Pittsfield, and 110 miles northwest of Boston.

Total Area: 19.75 sq. miles

Land Area: 19.56 sq. miles

Population: 1,928

Density: 99 per sq. mile

Climate

(National Climatic Data Center)

(Cummington Hill Station)

Normal temperature in January.....19.9°F

Normal temperature in July.....67.3°F

Normal annual precipitation.....46.0"

U.S.G.S. Topographical Plates

Ashfield, Shelburne Falls, Colrain

Regional Planning Agency

Franklin County

Metropolitan Statistical Area

(1993 Definition)



GOVERNMENT

Municipal Offices

Main Number: (413) 625-6330

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Form of Government

Board of Selectmen

Administrative Assistant

Open Town Meeting

Year Incorporated

As a town: 1779

Registered Voters (Secretary of State 1994)

	Number	%	
Total Registered	1,181		
Democrats	212	18.0	%
Republicans	171	14.5	%
Other parties	0	0.0	%
Unenrolled Voters	798	67.6	%

Legislators

[Senators and Representatives by City and Town](#)



DEMOGRAPHICS

Table DP-1. Profile of General Demographic Characteristics: 2000

Geographic Area: Buckland town, Franklin County, Massachusetts

[For information on confidentiality protection, nonsampling error, and definitions, see text]

Subject	Number	Percent	Subject	Number	Percent
Total population.....	1,991	100.0	HISPANIC OR LATINO AND RACE		
SEX AND AGE			Total population.....	1,991	100.0
Male.....	994	49.9	Hispanic or Latino (of any race).....	23	1.2
Female.....	997	50.1	Mexican.....	-	-
Under 5 years.....	97	4.9	Puerto Rican.....	12	0.6
5 to 9 years.....	127	6.4	Cuban.....	-	-
10 to 14 years.....	152	7.6	Other Hispanic or Latino.....	11	0.6
15 to 19 years.....	185	9.3	Not Hispanic or Latino.....	1,968	98.8
20 to 24 years.....	91	4.6	White alone.....	1,907	95.8
25 to 34 years.....	199	10.0	RELATIONSHIP		
35 to 44 years.....	327	16.4	Total population.....	1,991	100.0
45 to 54 years.....	342	17.2	In households.....	1,986	99.7
55 to 59 years.....	123	6.2	Householder.....	772	38.8
60 to 64 years.....	84	4.2	Spouse.....	418	21.0
65 to 74 years.....	135	6.8	Child.....	601	30.2
75 to 84 years.....	92	4.6	Own child under 18 years.....	452	22.7
85 years and over.....	37	1.9	Other relatives.....	69	3.5
Median age (years).....	39.6	(X)	Under 18 years.....	27	1.4
18 years and over.....	1,494	75.0	Nonrelatives.....	126	6.3
Male.....	717	36.0	Unmarried partner.....	69	3.5
Female.....	777	39.0	In group quarters.....	5	0.3
21 years and over.....	1,406	70.6	Institutionalized population.....	-	-
62 years and over.....	321	16.1	Noninstitutionalized population.....	5	0.3
65 years and over.....	264	13.3	HOUSEHOLD BY TYPE		
Male.....	120	6.0	Total households.....	772	100.0
Female.....	144	7.2	Family households (families).....	543	70.3
RACE			With own children under 18 years.....	256	33.2
One race.....	1,963	98.6	Married-couple family.....	418	54.1
White.....	1,922	96.5	With own children under 18 years.....	178	23.1
Black or African American.....	9	0.5	Female householder, no husband present.....	92	11.9
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	9	0.5	With own children under 18 years.....	55	7.1
Asian.....	13	0.7	Nonfamily households.....	229	29.7
Asian Indian.....	1	0.1	Householder living alone.....	168	21.8
Chinese.....	-	-	Householder 65 years and over.....	63	8.2
Filipino.....	1	0.1	Households with individuals under 18 years.....	276	35.8
Japanese.....	5	0.3	Households with individuals 65 years and over.....	188	24.4
Korean.....	5	0.3	Average household size.....	2.57	(X)
Vietnamese.....	-	-	Average family size.....	3.00	(X)
Other Asian ¹	1	0.1	HOUSING OCCUPANCY		
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-	Total housing units.....	839	100.0
Native Hawaiian.....	-	-	Occupied housing units.....	772	92.0
Guamanian or Chamorro.....	-	-	Vacant housing units.....	67	8.0
Samoan.....	-	-	For seasonal, recreational, or		
Other Pacific Islander ²	-	-	occasional use.....	27	3.2
Some other race.....	10	0.5	Homeowner vacancy rate (percent).....	1.8	(X)
Two or more races.....	28	1.4	Rental vacancy rate (percent).....	2.8	(X)
Race alone or in combination with one			HOUSING TENURE		
or more other races: ³			Occupied housing units.....	772	100.0
White.....	1,943	97.6	Owner-occupied housing units.....	599	77.6
Black or African American.....	15	0.8	Renter-occupied housing units.....	173	22.4
American Indian and Alaska Native.....	23	1.2	Average household size of owner-occupied units.....	2.64	(X)
Asian.....	23	1.2	Average household size of renter-occupied units.....	2.32	(X)
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander.....	-	-			
Some other race.....	20	1.0			

- Represents zero or rounds to zero. (X) Not applicable.

¹ Other Asian alone, or two or more Asian categories.

² Other Pacific Islander alone, or two or more Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander categories.

³ In combination with one or more of the other races listed. The six numbers may add to more than the total population and the six percentages may add to more than 100 percent because individuals may report more than one race.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000.



HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

Home Sales (Banker & Tradesman) -

[Town Stats - Free market Statistics](#)

Subsidized Housing Units (DHCD 1998)

[DHCD Subsidized Housing Inventory](#)

Subsidized Housing Units: The number of housing units which count toward the municipality's 10% goal for low- and moderate-income housing. It includes both subsidized affordable units and market rate units in certain eligible subsidized developments.

Public Housing Units (DHCD 1999)

Conventional State: 0

Conventional Federal: 0

Rental Assistance(DHCD 1999)

State (MRVP: 0

Federal (Section 8): 0



TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION AND ACCESS

The major axes of transportation in Franklin County, where Buckland is located, are State Route 2 and Interstate Route 91, which follows the Connecticut River. The region is well-served by rail. The Springfield Terminal Railway lines (the former Boston and Maine Railroad) parallel the two major highways, and the Central Vermont Railway's main line passes N-S through the eastern portion of the county.

Major Highways

The principal highway is State Route 112, which runs N-S and connects up with State Route 2 just over the border in Charlemont.

Rail

Freight rail service is available from the Springfield Terminal Railway. Contact number: (508) 663-1073.

Bus

Buckland is a member of the Franklin Regional Transit Authority (FRTA). There is no fixed route service. Paratransit services for the elderly and disabled is provided through GMTA.

Other

The Turners Falls Municipal Airport, a General Aviation (GA) facility, is easily accessible. It has a 3,013'x75' asphalt runway. Instrument approaches available: Non-precision.



CULTURE AND RECREATION

LIBRARIES

[Board of Library Commissioners On-line Library Catalog](#)

MUSEUMS

(American Association of Museums)

None

RECREATION

[Telephone Numbers for Public Information](#)

Recreational Facilities (Recreational sites and activities)

[Department of Environmental Management Recreation Section](#)



MISCELLANEOUS

HEALTH FACILITIES

(Dept. of Public Health 1992)

Hospitals

None

Long Term Care

None

Hospices

None

Rest Homes

None

UTILITIES

[Telephone Numbers for Public Utilities](#)

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NOTE: The COMMUNITY PROFILE draws information from a diversity of sources. The main source of information is listed under each section. In some instances comments submitted by the municipality were incorporated to correct and/or enhance the information obtained from the main source. However, no changes were made to those data bases which must be consistent throughout the state. DHCD has made efforts to ensure the accuracy of all data in the COMMUNITY PROFILES, but cannot take responsibility for any consequences arising from the use of the information contained in this document.